5.89), Behala (17.47, 20.30 & 21.87), Cooch Behar (12.59, 12.30 & 23.05) and Malda (14.08, 6.38 & 18.55) respectively.

(c) In order to generate non-traffic revenue, a number of commercial facilities have been augmented at the airports like introduction of Fast Food Outlets, Cyber Cafe, Hotel Reservation Facility, ATM, STD/ISD Outlets, Tea/Coffee Vending Machine and newspaper and magazine vending machines. Consultants have been engaged for suggesting improvements in generating non-traffic revenue at the airports.

Retirement of Air hostesses

3514. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to retire air hostesses above forty years of age in Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme;

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that there is no shortage of air hostesses; and

(d) what are the financial implications and what are the terms and conditions of new recruitments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Flights between India and Pakistan

†3515. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to increase the number of destinations in order to enhance the number of flights between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the new destinations selected for the purpose;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) by when the flights would start operating to the new destinations; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the number of flights of Indian Airlines to Pakistan have not been increased due to insufficient number of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Shortage of Pilots

†3516. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian aviation sector is facing acute shortage of pilots;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the efforts made by Government to deal with inadquate strength of pilots; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to ensure attractive salaries and appropriate arrangement of traning for the pilots in the Indian aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As against requirement of 1580 sets of crew equivalent to 3160 professional pilots, 2940 pilots are available leaving a shortfall of 7%.

(b) The expansion of fleet by both Indian Airlines and Air India as well as by some of the major private players and the entry of new players in the aviation sector has increased the demand of type—rated pilots in the industry. The airlines are coping up with the demand by employing ex-patriate pilots and retired pilots below the age of 65 years, subject to medical fitness.

(c) Air India and Indian Airlines are offering emolument packages

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.